

United States Geography and Climate Quiz

1. Rank the top 10 states in order of highest average elevation.
2. Rank the top 10 states in order of greatest land area.
3. Rank the top 10 states in order of greatest population, according to the 2000 census.
4. Rank the 5 smallest states in land area west of the Mississippi River, from smallest to largest.
5. Rank the 5 largest states in land area east of the Mississippi River, from largest to smallest.
6. What state west of the Mississippi River has the lowest population? East of the Mississippi? Values?
7. Which coastal states are in the top 10 of highest average elevation? Ranks?
8. Which state has the **highest** lowest elevation? Value?
9. Which state has the **lowest** highest elevation? Value?
10. Name a state with its lowest elevation below sea level. Value?
11. What state east of CO has the highest average elevation? Rank?
12. What state east of the Mississippi River has the highest average elevation? Rank?
13. How many states have highest elevations that are lower than CO's lowest elevation? Name at least 5.
14. Not including CA and TX, what are the top 10 states in population west of the Mississippi River?
15. Not including CA, what are the top 5 states in population entirely west of the 102nd parallel (CO's eastern border)?
16. Which states have the same rank for land area and average elevation? Ranks?
17. Which is the only state to have never recorded a temperature below zero degrees F?
18. Has any state **never** recorded a temperature of 100 degrees or more?
19. What state has the highest recorded temperature? Lowest recorded temperature?
20. What state has the **lowest** record high temperature?
21. Excepting CA, what conterminous state recorded the: Highest temperature? Lowest temperature? Lowest high temperature?
22. Rank the top 10 states in order of greatest recorded temperature extremes (record high minus record low).
23. Rank the top 10 states in order of highest recorded temperature.
24. Rank the top 10 states in order of lowest recorded temperature.
25. Rank the top 10 rivers by length.
26. Rank the top 10 rivers by drainage basin area.
27. Rank the top 10 rivers by average volume of discharge at the mouth.
28. Rank the top 5 states in which the most major rivers (length, drainage area, and/or flow) originate.
29. Rank the top 5 states that contain the most **inland** water surface area (absolute area, not percentage of area).
30. What state is ranked 22nd in land area, but jumps to 11th when total land + water area is included?
31. Rank the top 5 states that contain the most **total** water surface area (inland, coastal, and Great Lakes).
32. Rank the 5 states that contain the least total water surface area (absolute area, not percentage of area).
33. Which 2 states are closest to being 1/2 the land area of Colorado?
34. Which 3 states west of the Mississippi River are within about 300 sq. mi. of each other in land area? Ranks?
35. Which 5 states have the: Lowest population density per square mile? Highest population density? Values?
36. Rank the top 5 states having the most forest cover, by percentage of total area covered. Values?
37. Rank the 5 states having the least forest cover by percentage of total area, starting with the least. Values?
38. List the only 3 states whose borders consist entirely of theoretically straight lines (they actually waver a bit).
39. What state contains the highest elevation east of the: Rocky Mountains? Mississippi River? Values?
40. Rank the top 3 state capital cities by highest elevation. Values?

Answers:

1. CO, WY, UT, NM, NV, ID, AZ, MT, OR, HI
2. AK, TX, CA, MT, NM, AZ, NV, CO, WY, OR
3. CA, TX, NY, FL, IL, PA, OH, MI, NJ, GA
4. HI, LA, AR, IA, WA
5. GA, MI, IL, WI, FL
6. WY (493,782); VT (608,827)
7. OR (9), HI (10)
8. CO (3315 ft.)
9. FL (345 ft.)
10. CA (-282 ft.), LA (-8 ft.)
11. NE (12)
12. WV (19)
13. 18 (AL, AR, CT, DE, FL, IL, IN, IA, LA, MI, MN, MS, MO, NJ, OH, PA, RI, WI)
14. WA, MO, AZ, MN, LA, CO, OK, OR, IA, KS
15. WA, AZ, CO, OR, UT
16. IA (23), ME (39), NJ (46)
17. HI (12 = record low; FL = -2)
18. No
19. CA (134 degrees); AK (-80)
20. Tie - AK, HI (100 degrees)
21. AZ (128); MT (-70); RI (104)
22. MT, UT, ND, (Tie: AK, WY), (Tie - CA, CO), (Tie - ID, SD), NV
23. CA, AZ, NV, NM, (Tie - KS, ND), (Tie - AR, OK, SD, TX)
24. AK, MT, UT, WY, CO, (Tie - ID, MN, ND), SD, (Tie - OR, WI)
25. Missouri, Mississippi, Yukon, St. Lawrence, Rio Grande, Arkansas, Colorado, Atchafalaya, Ohio, Red
26. Mississippi, Missouri, St. Lawrence, Yukon, Rio Grande, Columbia, Colorado, Ohio, Arkansas, Snake
27. Mississippi, St. Lawrence, Ohio, Columbia, Yukon, Missouri, Tennessee, Mobile, Kuskokwim, Atchafalaya
28. (Tie - CO, NM = 6 rivers each), (Tie - AK, MN, WY, Canada = 2 each)
29. AK, TX, MN, FL, LA
30. MI
31. AK, MI, WI, MN, NY
32. HI, WV, RI, NM, NH, (next are AZ, VT, and then CO)
33. AL (~51,000 sq mi), AR (~52,000) (CO ~104,000)
34. ND (17), MO (18), OK (19), all ~ 69,000 sq. miles
35. AK (1.1), WY (5.1), MT (6.2), ND (9.3), SD (9.9); NJ (1134.4), RI (1003.2), MA (809.8), CT (702.9), MD (541.9)
36. ME (90%), NH (86), WV (79), VT (78), AL (68)
37. Tie - ND & NE (2%), Tie - KS & SD (3), IA (6)
38. CO, WY, UT (NM has a small section defined by the Rio Grande)
39. SD (Harney Peak, 7,242 ft.); NC (Mt. Mitchell, 6,684 ft.)
40. Santa Fe, NM (6,348 ft.); Cheyenne, WY (6,062 ft.); Denver, CO (5,280 ft.)

Compiled or derived from the following sources:

U.S. Geological Survey, *Elevations and Distances in the United States*, 2001 edition
 U.S. Geological Survey, *Largest Rivers in the United States*, Open File Report 87-242, May 1990
 U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census web site and *1999 Statistical Abstract of the United States*

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